

CONFEDERATE "ROLL OF HONOR"

The battle of Murfreesboro afforded members of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles their first opportunity to honor outstanding members of their regiment by selecting members to be enrolled in the Confederate "Roll of Honor."

This special award for valor was first approved by the Confederate Congress on October 13, 1862, and published in General Order Number 93, dated November 22, 1862, which read as follows:

"I. The following Acts of Congress, having been approved by the President, are published for the information of the Army:

No. 27. AN ACT to authorize the grant of medals and badges of distinction for courage and good conduct on the field of battle.

THE CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA DO ENACT, That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to bestow medals, with proper devices, upon such officers of the Armies of the Confederate States as shall be conspicuous for courage and good conduct on the field of battle, and also to confer a badge of distinction upon one private or non-commissioned officer of each company after each signal victory it shall have assisted to achieve.

The non-commissioned officers and privates of the company who may be present on the first dress-parade thereafter, may choose, by a majority of their votes, the soldier best entitled to receive such distinction, whose name shall be communicated to the President by commanding officers of the company; and if the award fall upon a deceased soldier, the badge thus awarded him shall be delivered to his widow, or, if there be no widow, to any relative the President may adjudge to receive it."

It was not until October 3, 1863, that the Confederate Congress got around to the matter of honoring the outstanding heroes of the battle of Murfreesboro, many months before. This award was finally announced in General Order No. 131, which read as follows:

"General Order No. 131

Difficulties in procuring the medals and badges of distinction having delayed their presentation by the President, as authorized by the Act of Congress approved October 13, 1862, to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Armies of the Confederate States conspicuous for courage and good conduct on the field of battle, to avoid postponing the grateful recognition of their valor until it can be made in the enduring form provided by that Act, it is ordered—

I. That the names of all those who have been, or may hereafter be, reported as worthy of this distinction, be inscribed on a ROLL OF HONOR, to be preserved in the office of the Adjutant and Inspector General for reference in all future time, for those who have deserved well of their country, as having best displayed their courage and devotion on the field of battle.

II. That the ROLL OF HONOR, so far as now made up, be appended to this order and read at the head of every regiment in the service of the Confederate States at the first dress-parade after its receipt, and be published in at least one newspaper in each state.

III. The attention of the officers in charge is directed to General Order No. 93, Sect. No. 27, of the Series of 1862, Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, for the mode of selecting the non-commissioned officers and privates entitled to this distinction, and its execution is enjoined.

Donated by:
Robert & Mary Belew
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BATTLE OF MURFREESBORO

State of Arkansas SECOND ARKANSAS MOUNTED RIFLES

"ROLL OF HONOR"

Company	Soldier	
"A"	Color Bearer Jonas W. Pyles	(1)
"B"	Pvt. Tillman Peavy	(x)
"C"	Pvt. Joseph H. Eagle	(x)
"D"	Pvt. Elias A. Belew	(2)
"E"	Pvt. William A. Thompson	(x)
"F"	Pvt. William Till	(x)
"G"	Sgt. Jesse E. Sheppard	(3)
"H"	Pvt. Michael M. McGee	(1)
"I"	1st Sgt. H. M. Graves	(5)
"K"	Sgt. Finis E. Jett	(6)

(x) Killed in action.

(1) Jonas W. Pyles was furloughed to Arkansas in December of 1863. Supposed to have been captured on his return trip.

(2) Elias A. Belew deserted to the Federals at Lost Mountain, Ga., on October 3, 1864. On October 31, 1864, he signed the Oath of Allegiance at Chattanooga, and was advised to remain north of the Ohio River for the duration of the war. Belew was wounded in the head at Murfreesboro, and his friends insisted that this head wound influenced his actions later.

(3) Jesse E. Sheppard surrendered with Co. "D", First Consolidated Arkansas Mounted Rifles, at Greensboro, N. C., April 26, 1865.

(4) Michael M. McGee was later wounded and disabled for life at Dug Gap, Ga., May 8, 1864. Retired for battle wounds, December 2, 1864.

(5) H. M. Graves was captured at Columbia, Tenn., on the retreat from Nashville, Dec. 22, 1864. On June 6, 1865, he was released at Point Lookout, Maryland, after signing the Oath of Allegiance.

(6) Finis E. Jett surrendered with Co. "C", First Consolidated Arkansas Mounted Rifles, at Greensboro, N. C., on April 26, 1865.

(Note: Other Arkansas units included in General Order No. 131 were:

First Regiment of Infantry
Fourth Regiment of Infantry
First Arkansas Mounted Rifles
25th Regiment of Infantry
Fourth Battalion of Infantry
Humphrey's Artillery Company)

Following the battle of Murfreesboro, Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee reported on February 28, 1863, in part:

"The Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles (Dis), again routed the 22nd Indiana, capturing its Colonel.

This Indiana regiment is the same the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles had routed at Perryville, Kentucky, and which, during the campaign of last year, had behaved with such barbarity to the people of Arkansas."

The Arkansas troops which served at Murfreesboro earned many public and private commendations for their valor.

One that they particularly cherished was the casual remark of General Hardee, in the hottest part of the battle at Murfreesboro:

"I wish the whole army was composed of Arkansas troops!"

* * *

Muster Roll, Headquarters, Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, for December 31, 1862, prepared at Shelbyville, Tennessee, recorded the following officers:

Colonel: Harris Flanagin (Resigned accepted November 8, 1862)

Lt. Col.: James A. Williamson—Actg Commander

Major: James T. Smith—Present

Surgeon: W. L. DeBerry—Present

Asst. Surgeon—W. A. C. Sayle—Present

Adjutant—Charles W. Woods—Dangerously wounded at Murfreesboro. Later died in prison.

Sgt. Major: T. C. Finley—Wounded at Murfreesboro

Q. M. Sgt.—T. C. Dupree—Present

Ord. Sgt.—W. H. H. Coleman—Present

Comm. Sgt.—N. M. Jones—Present

Hosp. Steward—George W. Howard—Present

Drum Major: Edward C. Willis—Present (Seriously wounded at Murfreesboro)

Fife Major: W. J. Denson—Absent—Left sick at Loudon, Tennessee

* * *

Following Murfreesboro, General Bragg withdrew to Tullahoma, Tennessee, 37 miles away, where he established his headquarters. Polk fell back to Shelbyville, and was ordered to stop there. Hardee took position at Wartrace, on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad.

APPENDIX

BATTLES AND ENGAGEMENTS—SECOND ARKANSAS MOUNTED RIFLES

Aug. 10, 1861	Oak Hill ("Wilson's Creek"), Missouri
Dec. 26, 1861	Chustenentah, Indian Territory
March 6-8, 1862	Elkhorn Tavern ("Pea Ridge"), Arkansas
Aug. 30, 1862	Richmond, Kentucky
Oct. 8, 1862	Perryville, Kentucky
Dec. 31, 1862-Jan. 2, 1863	Murfreesboro ("Stone's River"), Tennessee
May 14, 1863	Jackson, Mississippi
Sept. 19-20, 1863	Chickamauga, Georgia
May 8, 1864	Dug Gap, Georgia
May 13-15, 1864	Resaca, Georgia
May 25-27, 1864	New Hope Church, Georgia
June 14, 1864	Pine Mountain, Georgia
June 27, 1864	Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia
July 19, 1864	Moore's Hill, Georgia
July 20, 1864	Peachtree Creek, Georgia
July 22, 1864	Atlanta, Georgia
July 28, 1864	Ezra Church, Georgia
Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1864	Jonesboro, Georgia
Sept. 2, 1864	Lovejoy's Station, Georgia
Nov. 30, 1864	Franklin, Tennessee
Dec. 15-16, 1864	Nashville, Tennessee
March 19-21, 1865	Bentonville, North Carolina
April 26, 1865	Surrendered at Greensboro, North Carolina

ALPHABETICAL LIST—SECOND ARKANSAS MOUNTED RIFLES

Name	Company	Name	Company
Abernathy, M. R.	Hawkins'	Barker, William H. (Lt)	D
Acree, Isaac	I	Barkman, James E. M. (Lt)	F
Acree, D. Larkin (Corp)	C	Barksdale, James M. (Sgt)	H
Adcock, Raleigh M.	F	Barthart, Harlan	A
Ady, Jasper	C	Basham, David	G
Akers, William M.	I	Basham, Gabriel	G
Allen, B. H. (X)	B	Baxter, James	F
Allen, George C.	B	Baxter, Jasper B. (Jessie?)	I
Allen, James	G	Baxter, John C.	I
Allen, S. A.	H	Baxter, L. T.	I
Allen, Wiley B. (1st Sgt) (X)	F	Baxter, Thomas L.	I
Allen, William S.	B	Baxter, William Riley	I
Allen, William S.	F	Bayless, Cecilus C. (Corp)	G
Altman, Zeno S.	H	Bayzar, John W. (Lt)	Hawkins'
Anderson, George T.	G	Beale, Mutt	H
(Roll of Honor)		Bear, John	F
Anderson, James A.	A	Beard, Joseph	Hawkins'
Anderson, John G. (Lt)	C	Bearden, Orville	C
Anderson, N. R.	Hawkins'	Beaty, William M.	H
Anderson, Robert	C	Beauchamp, P. G.	Hawkins'
Anderson, W. H.	B	Beck, William	B
Andrews, George H. (Corp)	E	Beecham, Robert W.	C
Andrews, Joe T.	E	Belcher, George W.	C
Anglin, James G.	D	Belew, Elias A. (Roll of Honor)	D
Anthony, Ferris (Finis?)	I	Belew, Thomas J.	D
Arnold, Joshua (Bugler)	A	Bell, John M.	B
Arrington, Edmund A.	C	Benefield, James Madison	
Arrington, John A. (Captain)	D	(Captain)	B
Ashby, George (Lt)	F	Benisley, G. W. (Sgt)	K
Ashford, Stanford P.	F	Benjamin, Henry L.	E
Ashley, Andrew	C	Bennett, Charles	E
Ashley, Uriah	C	Benson, Andrew J.	B
Ashmore, W. W.	A	Berry, F. G.	K
Astin (Aston), John M. (Corp)	H	Berry, H. S. (Lt)	K
Atkins, Charles H. (1st Sgt)	G	Berry, S. H.	K
Austin, George W. (X)	G	Billingsley, Granville	G
Austin, John L.	K	Billingsley, Samuel A. (Corp)	F
Austin, John N.	D	Billingsley, Wilson S.	I
Austin, John R.	G	Bird, T. C. (Roll of Honor)	C
Autrey, William	D	Birmingham, Calvin C.	C
Awalt, Solomon M.	I	Birmingham, John R.	C
		Bittick, William F.	H
Bacon, Hale	K	Bittle, Isaac (Sgt)	F
Bacon, Jesse	K	Black, Edwin M.	Hawkins'
Baird, J. J.	H	Blakely, James M.	K
Baker, Giles	D	Blanton, J. W.	Hawkins'
Baker, G. W.	A	Blaylock, Edward (Roll of Honor)	A
Baker, Jesse	K	Blaylock, M. G.	A
Baker, Moses	D	Blewett, William L. (Corp)	G
Baker, William	C	Blithe, William M.	A
Baker, William	K	Bloodworth, J. B.	Hawkins'
Barker, William A.	C	Boatright, H. P.	K

(X) Surrendered at Greensboro, N. C. 4-26-65